

Agricultural Report

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner



Wednesday, September 26, 2018

CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURE SHOWCASED ON FARM AID'S NATIONAL STAGE

Linda Piotrowicz, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation

Farm Aid's high-profile, talent-packed annual music festival took place in Hartford on September 22, 2018, with Connecticut agriculture prominently featured through exhibits, videos, blog entries, photographs, and farmer appearances on stage before the music began.

Musicians Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp organized the first Farm Aid concert in 1985 to raise awareness about the loss of family farms and to raise funds to keep farm families on the land. Dave Matthews joined the Farm Aid Board of Directors in 2001, and the organization has grown in the three decades since its founding to include year-round programming to assist farmers in need and to encourage food systems fostering local farm viability and providing nutritious food to communities.

While the 10-hour music festival often garners the most attention, the annual gathering also includes numerous events in the host state to engage farmers and activists through tours of farms and food venues and via both organized and informal discussions about the challenges and opportunities experienced by farm families and consumers. The Homegrown Village features exhibits that engage and educate festival-goers and concession stands featuring local, family farm ingredients.

Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky participated in the hour-long press conference Saturday morning on the main stage. He welcomed Farm Aid to Connecticut, thanked the organization for all the work it has done to support farm families, and spoke of recent heartache suffered by Connecticut's agricultural community over the past year.

He also talked about the resiliency of farmers to persevere and overcome the many challenges they face each day as they work the land to feed us and improve the quality of life we enjoy.

Willie Nelson looked back on 33 years of Farm Aid, noting that he had thought the first concert would be enough to solve many of the crises faced by farmers in the mid-1980s. Much to the contrary, however, the crises have expanded and the need to help farm families survive is greater today than ever.

"I think the family farmers are the keepers of the soil, the land, they feed us," he said. "Everybody eats so everyone should be very concerned about who does their food and where does it come from."

In addition to interacting with Farm Aid founders and board members, Commissioner Reviczky and Connecticut farmers Willie DellaCamera, Joe Greenbacker, Eric Henry, Christina Sandolo, Alexis Martin, and Delisha Ramsay engaged with Wholesome Wave CEO Michel Nischan and Farm Aid's Executive Director Carol Mugar and Communications Director Jennifer Fahy in conversations about farms in crisis, farm resiliency, and urban food production, among other topics.

Videos shown on the gigantic high-definition screens shared stories about the farmers on stage as well as that of Greenbacker's daughter, Melissa Dziurgot, and Peter, Kristin, and Kies Orr of Fort Hill Farms, illustrating some of the enormous obstacles faced by each farm and steps taken by the farmers to deal with and, hopefully, overcome those challenges.

In the case of Brookfield Farm, sadly, Joe Greenbacker's family opted to sell the dairy herd after 10 generations of farming in order to provide a more economically stable footing for current and future generations.

"It is an emotional decision to sell the farm and the cows after all these years," he said. "But in reality, if we had kept going, we would have just continued to erode the value and equity in our business."

At Cecarelli Farms, longtime employee Willie DellaCamera has teamed up with the widow of farmer Nelson Cecarelli, who passed away earlier this year, to keep the land in Nelson's family for 105 years producing a wide variety of vegetables and value-added products made from those vegetables.



DoAg Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky spoke about farms in crisis, farm resiliency, and urban food production, among other topics at the Farm Aid press conference.



Joe Greenbacker of Greenbacker Farms, Willie DellaCamera of Cecarelli Farms, DoAg Commissioner Reviczky, and Farm Aid communications director, Jennifer Fahy.

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NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.00	1.27
LARGE	.94	1.08
MEDIUM	.59	.72

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.73	1.89
LARGE	1.60	1.69
MEDIUM	1.15	1.24
SMALL	.82	.92

LANCASTER, PA LIVESTOCK

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted

SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	110.00	115.00
Choice 2-3	105.00	109.00
Select 1-2	105.00	107.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Choice 1-2	79.50	83.50
Select 1-2	75.50	79.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	108.00	112.00
Choice 2-3 few	107.00	108.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 90-118 lbs	40.00	55.00
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	52.50	57.00
boners 80-85% lean	52.00	57.50
lean 88-90% lean	42.00	48.50
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
90-110 lbs	160.00	180.00
110-130 lbs	140.00	167.00
130-150 lbs	140.00	160.00
150-200 lbs	130.00	150.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
100-120 lbs	60.00	80.00
120-160 lbs	60.00	85.00
160-200 lbs	65.00	85.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
40-60 lbs	150.00	160.00
60-80 lbs	150.00	175.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	150.00	190.00
130-180 lbs	185.00	225.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	215.00	235.00
150-250 lbs	260.00	335.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

SLAUGHTER HOGS		
52-56	200-300 lbs	42.00 52.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	35.00 46.00
	300-350 lbs	36.00 43.00
	350-400 lbs	24.00 28.00
Sows, US 1-3		
	300-500 lbs	24.00 30.00
	500-800 lbs	22.00 32.00
Boars		
	400-700 lbs	2.00 5.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT

Price per ton, small squares. Sept. 21.

ALFALFA/GRASS		
	PREMIUM	275.00 280.00
GRASS HAYS		
	PREMIUM	280.00 325.00
	GOOD	220.00 265.00
	FAIR	135.00 180.00
STRAW		
		205.00 250.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	15.00
APPLE, CRTLND, 80, CRT, XFCY	30.00	31.00
APPLE, CRTLND, 88, CRT, XFCY	30.00	31.00
APPLE, GALA, LOOSE, NO GRADE	22.00	22.00
APPLE, HONYCRISP, BU, NG	45.00	45.00
APPLE, MAC, 80, CRT, XFCY	31.00	32.00
APPLE, MAC, 88, CRT, XFCY	31.00	31.00
APPLE, MAC, 100, CRT, XFCY	26.00	26.00
APPLE, MACOUN, BU, NG	28.00	28.00
APPLE, CRISPIN, BU, NG	22.00	22.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY, BU	28.00	28.00
BEEF, CHIOGGA, 25LB, M-L, LOOSE	20.00	22.00
BROCC, CRN CUT, 20 LB LOOSE	18.00	23.00
CAULIFLOWER, WHITE, 9S, CRT	16.00	17.00
CIDER, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	19.00
CIDER, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	21.00
CORN, INDIAN, BUNCHED 3, 20	45.00	50.00
CORN, STRAWB, BNCH 3, 16	28.00	32.00
CORN, SWEET, BAG, 5 DOZEN	16.00	20.00
CORNSTALKS, /BUNDLE, 5	5.00	8.00
EGGPLANT, WRPPD, 1-1/9, M	19.00	21.00
EGGPLANT, WRPPD, 1-1/9, L	15.00	17.00
GOURDS, ORNAMENT, 1/2 BU	14.00	16.00
GOURDS, ORN, SHELLACK 1/2 BU	22.00	25.00
PARSNIPS, 20 LB LOOSE, MED	20.00	24.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1 LB, MEDIUM	20.00	23.00
PEPPER, GRN, 1 -1/9, JMBO	18.00	24.00
PEPPER, GRN, 1 -1/9, XLARGE	16.00	21.00
PEPPER, CUBANELLE, 1-1/9, M-L	16.00	20.00
PEPPER, JALAPENO, 1-1/9, M-L	20.00	24.00
PEPPER, LONG HOT, 1-1/9, GREEN	16.00	20.00
PEPPER, POBLANO, 1-1/9	18.00	20.00
PMPKN, CNDERL, OR, 24"BIN, L	285.00	300.00
PMPKN, FAIRYTL, OR, 24"BIN, L	285.00	300.00
PMPKN, HOWDN, OR, 36"BIN, JBO	200.00	225.00
PMPKN, HOWDN, OR, 36"BIN, L-XL	175.00	225.00
PMPKN, HOWDN, WH, 24"BIN, JBO	400.00	400.00
PMPKN, PIE, OR, 1/2 BU, M	20.00	25.00
PMPKN, PIE, OR, 24"BIN, M	250.00	285.00
PMPKN, PIE, OR, 36"BIN, M	270.00	300.00
PMPKN, BGMACK, OR, 36"BIN, JB	200.00	225.00
PMPKN, BGMACK, OR, 36"BIN, L	175.00	200.00
PMPKN, BGMACK, OR, 36"BIN, M	175.00	200.00
PMPKN, BGMACK, OR, 36"BIN, S	175.00	200.00
PMPKN, BGMACK, OR, 36"BIN, XL	175.00	200.00
SQUASH, ACORN, 1-1/9, M-L	16.00	20.00
SQUASH, BUTTERCUP, 1-1/9, M-L	16.00	20.00
SQUASH, BUTTERCUP, 1-1/9, L	18.00	20.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9, M-L	16.00	20.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9, L	16.00	20.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9, XL	15.00	18.00
SQUASH, CARNIVAL, 1-1/9, L	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, 1-1/9, L	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, BLUE HUB, 1-1/9, L	20.00	24.00
SQUASH, KABOCHA, 1-1/9, M-L	16.00	20.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9, M-L	16.00	20.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9, L	16.00	18.00
STRAW BALE, STAND, 1 BALE	7.00	8.00
STRAW BALE, MINI, 1 BALE	4.50	5.50
TOMS, GHS, 10 LBS, HEIRLOOM	16.00	20.00
TOMS, GHS, 15 LBS, HEIRLOOM	28.00	30.00
TOMS, GHS, ONVINE, 11LBS, S-M	15.00	15.00
TOMS, GHS, VINERIPE, 15 LBS	22.00	22.00
TOMS, VINERIPE, 20 LBS, L	18.00	19.00
TOMS, GHS, LOOSE, 25 LBS, S-M	18.00	19.00
TOM, GHS, CHRRY, 5 LB FLAT, S-M	15.00	16.50
TOM, GHS, CHRRY, 8-10 OZ, S-M	20.00	24.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - September 24, 2018

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	15.00	20.00
61-75 lbs.	27.50	30.00
76-90 lbs.	35.00	40.00
91-105 lbs.	42.50	45.00
106 lbs. & up	50.00	55.00
Farm Calves	60.00	65.00
Starter Calves	n/a	n/a
Veal Calves	140.00	175.00
Feeder Heifers	110.00	125.00
Beef Heifers	69.00	82.00
Feeder Steers	155.00	160.00
Beef Steers	70.00	78.00
Feeder Bulls	90.00	145.00
Beef Bulls	65.00	74.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	31.00	39.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	17.00	50.00
Sheep each	110.00	135.00
Lambs each	60.00	225.00
Goats each	57.00	350.00
Kid Goats each	30.00	50.00
Canners	up to	45.50
Cutters	46.50	50.00
Utility Grade Cows	51.00	55.00
Rabbits each	3.00	18.00
Chickens each	5.00	20.00
Ducks each	4.00	20.00

BOSTON MARKET CUT FLOWERS

Wholesale. \$/unit listed.

Long stem unless noted. September 25, 2018.

AMRNTHS, UPRT, NENG, /BN	12.00	12.00
DAHLIA, XL, NENG, 5/BN	15.00	16.50
HYDRNGA, PG, NENG, /BN	12.00	12.50
SNAPDRGN, XL, NENG, /BN	12.50	13.50
SUNFLWR, NENG, 5/BN	7.50	8.75
SUNFLWR, NENG, EA	1.00	1.00
ZINNIA, XL, NENG, /BN	12.00	12.00

DAIRY CATTLE

New Holland, PA. Price per animal.

FRESH COWS		
APPROVED	900.00	1350.00
MEDIUM	550.00	850.00
SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):		
MEDIUM FEW	575.00	725.00
SHORT BRED COWS (1-3 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	750.00	1100.00
MEDIUM	500.00	725.00
SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS):		
SUPREME FEW	1000.00	1175.00
APPROVED FEW	750.00	1000.00
BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):		
SUPREME	1025.00	1150.00
APPROVED FEW	750.00	850.00
MEDIUM FEW	525.00	625.00
SHORT BRED HEIFERS (1-3 MONTHS):		
APPROVED	500.00	950.00
OPEN HEIFERS:		
300-600 lbs		
APPROVED	200.00	400.00
MEDIUM	60.00	185.00
600-900 lbs		
APPROVED	385.00	600.00
MEDIUM	235.00	375.00

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Willie DellaCamera of Cecarelli Farms and Farm Aid founder and board member Willie Nelson.

"His wife and I have taken the reins, and will keep this farm going as long as we can," Willie said. "I'm only here merely to guide this ship...it's still going to be a family farm."

Eric Henry continues to seek ways to innovate and improve production on 300 acres of land that has been in his family since 1903 at Blue Hills Orchard, despite weather extremes and other factors beyond his, or any farmer's, control.

"This farmland means the world to me," he said. "It's hard to imagine being anywhere else. You can't be afraid to try something different, to do something differently."

Christina Sandolo works with youth at Bridgeport's Reservoir Community Farm to teach them how to produce fresh food in their own communities to feed themselves and their neighbors healthy meals that would otherwise not be accessible.

"When we talk about food justice, we are talking about ability of everyone to participate in the food system, in all aspects of it from seed to plate," she said. "We are trying to engage as many people as possible in growing food and learning about where food comes from."

Kristin and Kies Orr have dedicated themselves to honoring the love and legacy of Peter—who tragically took his own life after concluding it was in the farm's and family's best interests to mitigate overwhelming medical bills—through diversification of the dairy farm.

While the Orrs were not on stage during the press conference, their presence and loss were strongly felt as many of the participants wiped



Farm Aid board member Dave Matthews.



Farm Aid founder and board member John Mellencamp.

their eyes watching the segment.

Wholesome Wave CEO Michel Nischan spoke about food insecurity, food access, and the benefit of SNAP-related incentives, not only for consumers but farmers.

"We were able to prove, surveying 3,600 farmers two years in a row, that farmers put more land into production, they diversified their crop plantings, they bought new equipment, they made infrastructural improvements, and the average farmers' market saw an 42 percent increase in sales," he reported.

John Mellencamp added a passionate and colorful commentary on the state of the nation's politics and policies, pointing out that everyone needs to stand up and demand change to fix the problems.

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency.

Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

49-R. Dahlia tubers – exhibiting/cut varieties. \$6 each. For more information about purchasing and varieties email info@strongfarm.org.

70-R. Border collie puppies. Black and white. 2 males, 5 females. Ready early September. 203-263-4725.

72-R. Round hay bales. Wrapped or unwrapped, first cutting. Picked up or delivered. 203-264-2217.

73-R. Pumpkins – Full selection gourds, munchkins, novelty pumpkins and squash, white, prizewinner, face, and sugar. By the bin or trailer loads. Good color, stems, and spray program. Picked fresh. Dzen Farms, 860-648-1355.

75-R. Farm for sale. 9.2 acre about 40,000 sq. ft. greenhouses in Eastford, CT. Used to produce lettuce, cucumbers, herbs, tomatoes. \$329,000.00. Negotiable. 860-336-8000.

76-R. Registered Angus and Hereford cattle for sale. Open heifers, bred heifers, mature cows safe in calf to industry leading A.I. sires. Contact Eric at CJR. 860-567-9423, Extension 217.

77-R. Nursery hoops for sale in Suffield, CT. 100's available in 3 sizes, 14'W x 6'H, 17' x 9', 20' x 9'. Call Paul for more details 860-668-7371.

79. Massey Ferguson 63 HP. Perkins diesel engine, live power, Rops cab, 3 point hitch with forks, Woods brush hog. 203-509-3742.

80-R. Christmas greens: wreaths and roping, many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fundraisers. 203-457-1344.

WANTED

7-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

68-R. Bulldozing in Eastern CT. Farm ponds up to 3 acres. Need farm water, call Don Kemp. Also, land clearing. 860-546-9500.

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"When I wrote Rain on the Scarecrow, they used to play protests songs on the radio. They don't play them anymore," he said. "Our voices have been silenced."

Neil Young issued a call to action to get out and vote for those individuals who believe in and support the issues most important to each person, and emphasized that no one should pass a farmers' market without stopping to purchase something from a farmer who grew or produced it.

"We've been doing this for a long time, but there's a real good reason we've been doing it, and there's something you can do," he said. "Every day when a farmer wakes up, it doesn't matter what's happening, he or she has to go to work...they have to do all of these things, or things die. If someone drives by a farmers' market, they are killing a farm. Please, do not abandon the farmers of America."

Dave Matthews emphasized the importance of connecting with one another in person—rather than on an electronic screen—and of shopping and meeting neighbors at farmers' markets, providing equitable access to fresh food, and supporting the families who work to support themselves farming the land around us.

"The one thing you'd think everyone in this country, the richest country in the world, should have access to is good food," he said. "And that the people who produce the best food should be able to do so without the fear of going hungry themselves because they can't make ends meet."

The press conference was followed by an afternoon and evening of musical sets performed by Nelson (and Family), Young (with Promise of the Real), Mellencamp, and Matthews (with Tim Reynolds), as well as Chris Stapleton (introduced by Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin), Sturgill Simpson, Kacey Musgraves, Jamey Johnson, Margo Price, Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real, Particle Kid, and Ian Mellencamp.

The Xfinity Theater was at full capacity both inside its seated arena and outside on the lawn. The concert sold out in four hours. All performers donate their time and talent to the fundraiser.

**Scarecrow on a wooden cross blackbird in the barn
Four hundred empty acres that used to be my farm
I grew up like my daddy did my grandpa cleared this land
When I was five I walked the fence while grandpa held my hand
Rain on the scarecrow blood on the plow
This land fed a nation this land made me so proud
And son I'm just sorry they're just memories for you now
Rain on the scarecrow blood on the plow
Rain on the scarecrow blood on the plow**

*Written by John Mellencamp, George Green, and George Michael Green
Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC*



DoAg Commissioner Reviczky with Farm Aid founders and board members Neil Young and John Mellencamp.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



CTGrown.gov

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